In the Specification

Please enter the enclosed SEQUENCE LISTING into the specification.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 16 of page 6 as follows:

Figure 2 illustrates the identification of the 135 kDa antigen, SIMA135, recognized by mAb 41-2. Figure 2(A) shows SDS-PAGE analysis under reducing conditions of ^{35}S labeled proteins immunoprecipitated from M^+ HEp3 cells with mAb 41-2 or normal mouse IgG (nmIgG). The gel was dried and exposed to film at -80°C overnight. The sequence of 3 tryptic peptide fragments obtained from the excised 135 kDa protein band are indicated and aligned against peptides from GenBank entry BAB15511 (SEQ ID NOs:4-9). Figure 2(B) illustrates the amino acid sequence of SIMA135 (SEQ ID NO:1). The signal sequence is in lower case lettering and the putative transmembrane domain is boxed. Twelve consensus N-glycosylation motifs are indicated with filled triangles. Cytoplasmic tyrosine residues are circled. CUB domains that are thought to span residues 221 to 348 and 417 to 544 are underlined. The three peptides identified from trypsin digestion and sequencing are overlined. The Arg residue preceding peptide 2 and the Lys preceding peptide 3 are boxed to highlight the consistency with trypsin specificity for Arg/Lys containing substrates. Cytoplasmic domain PXXP sequences are underlined. A consensus palmitylation motif, following the putative transmembrane domain, is indicated by filled circles. Figure 2(C) shows western blot analysis probing with mAb 41-2 of total cell lysates (25 μg) electrophoresed under non-reducing conditions from HEp3 cells, mock transfected HeLa and HeLa cells transiently transfected with the SIMA135 cDNA.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 28 as follows:

SIMA135 cDNA in the eukaryotic expression vector pME18S-FL3 (GenBank accession number AK026622) was generated as part of the Japanese NEDO human cDNA sequencing project and kindly provided by Dr. Hiroko Hata (Dept. of Virology, Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo). The SIMA135FLAGin construct was generated by PCR placing sequences encoding the FLAG epitope (DYKDDDDK; SEQ ID NO:10) immediately before the stop codon of the parent construct. Both constructs were sequenced. HeLa cells ($4x10^5$) were transiently

transfected with either the SIMA135 or SIMA135FLAGin expression constructs using Superfect reagent (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) as described by the manufacturer. Cells were lysed in ice cold buffer containing 10 mM Tris (pH 8.0), 150 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100, 5 mM EDTA and 1x Complete mini EDTA-free protease inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Indianapolis, IN). Insoluble material was removed by centrifugation at 14000 rpm for 10 min.